



COLBY  
FREE PRESS

# County still considering Web site

By Tisha Cox  
*Colby Free Press*

Thomas County isn't any closer to getting a Web site. County commissioners discussed a proposal from Inifitec of Hays at their meeting today but made no decision. Wade McCarty, regional marketing manager, gave the proposal that included a module to allow each of the county's departments to put up as much information as they want. It also included the cost of everything they want at \$8,468, plus a yearly maintenance fee of \$3,480. McCarty said the county can add as much or little information as they want, along with services like a vehicle tax estimator. "It depends on the county," he said. "Each county is going to be totally different." He added if a county wanted to do everything possible for a Web page, it would run about \$100,000, and explained if they don't know about different services, they probably won't use them. McCarty said they didn't offer everything because all of it won't benefit Thomas County. They should start at the basic level, then build on that if they want. However, as chairman Ron Evans said, he and his fellow commissioners still aren't sold on the idea. "I'm not shutting the door," he

said, adding he would like a list from each county department about what they would like to have on their pages. At issue is cost, along with what information would be made available to the general public versus entities that would pay for information, like title companies or appraisers. Commissioners also heard from emergency medical services director Ken Gatlin and Marty Rinehart on a service agreement for defibrillator batteries. Steele explained they approved an agreement with a company earlier this year to calibrate and provide batteries for the defibrillator in the county's ambulances. He found the entity that checks some of the hospital's equipment comes twice a year and was wondering if possibly they could do the ambulance equipment. Gatlin said making sure warranties stay good is a future concern, and also brought up the defibrillators stationed around the county. He updated the commissioners on the locations of the defibrillators, which are Quality, Inn, Oasis Travel Center, Colby Community Building, Brewster and Rexford ambulances, Menlo and Mingo. "We've got more sites than we've got machines at the moment," he said, adding they would like to get more of the units, which are self-contained.

# Authorities warn of telephone scam

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
*Colby Free Press*

Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn wants people to contact him if telemarketers call with an offer for free money. "We always tell people not to give out their bank account or bank routing numbers, or their social security or drivers' license numbers," Baughn said. A Colby woman received a call Monday morning being told she was the recipient of a \$1,000 shopping spree. In order to have the money directly deposited into her bank account, the woman would have had to provide the caller her bank account and routing number. Baughn said his office is always on the watch for phone scams like the one involving the Colby woman. Reports about phone scam calls allow authorities to determine whether the incident was isolated or

**“ We always tell people not to give out bank account . . . ”**  
Sheriff Mike Baughn

broader such as in a certain prefix area such as 460 or 462. Baughn asks anyone receiving calls which are "too good to be true," to contact his office at 460-4570. Colby Police Chief Randy Jones said his department as of Monday had not received any complaints about the scam. "It's always nice to be aware about them," Jones said. Anyone receiving a phone call giving away money can call the police department at 460-4460. To add your name and phone number to the state's "no-call" list visit the Kansas Attorney General's website at <http://www.ksag.org>.

# Death of hawk could result in county facing criminal charges

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
*Colby Free Press*

Logan County officials could face criminal charges if the death of a red tailed hawk was caused by prairie dog eradication chemicals. County commissioners Carl Uhrich, Nick Scott and Doug Mackley learned recently the county might be sued if the hawk died after ingesting Rozol. "On Dec. 20 we have a representative from the Rozol company coming to view the application process," Logan County Clerk Pat Schippers said. "The representative will make sure the Rozol is being applied right. "Then we'll get together with the landowners and their attorney, the county attorney, probably after the first of the year."

## Dead hawk prompts landowner to hire attorney

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
*Colby Free Press*

A Logan County landowner who found a dead hawk is one of three men who hired an attorney to fight prairie dog eradication. Larry Haverfield found a dead red tailed hawk eight miles south of Russell Springs about three weeks ago. "I found it one-half mile east of County Road 270 and County Road Gold," Haverfield said. "It's on my ground, but there wasn't any Rozol near where I found the hawk." Haverfield spoke out during a public meeting in August saying the county should leave prairie dogs alone. He said when he found the hawk it looked like it had been dead two days. He, along with Robert G. Barnhardt and Gene Bertrand, hired a Wichita attorney to represent them against Logan County's effort to control prairie dogs. "I don't like negotiating things in the press, but I can confirm we are representing the three land owners," said Wichita attorney Randall Rathbun. Haverfield said neither he nor Barnhardt or Bertrand have taken steps required by Logan County to control prairie dogs on their land. Despite receiving letters from the county they refuse to chemically treat prairie dog holes. "It's my belief (prairie dogs) are good," Haverfield said Tuesday morning. "To fight prairie dogs you are fighting nature."

Logan County began in October to get prairie dog population under control. In August Uhrich said an esti-

mated 18,000 acres of land was infested. According to Mike Mitchner of the Kansas Wildlife and Parks in

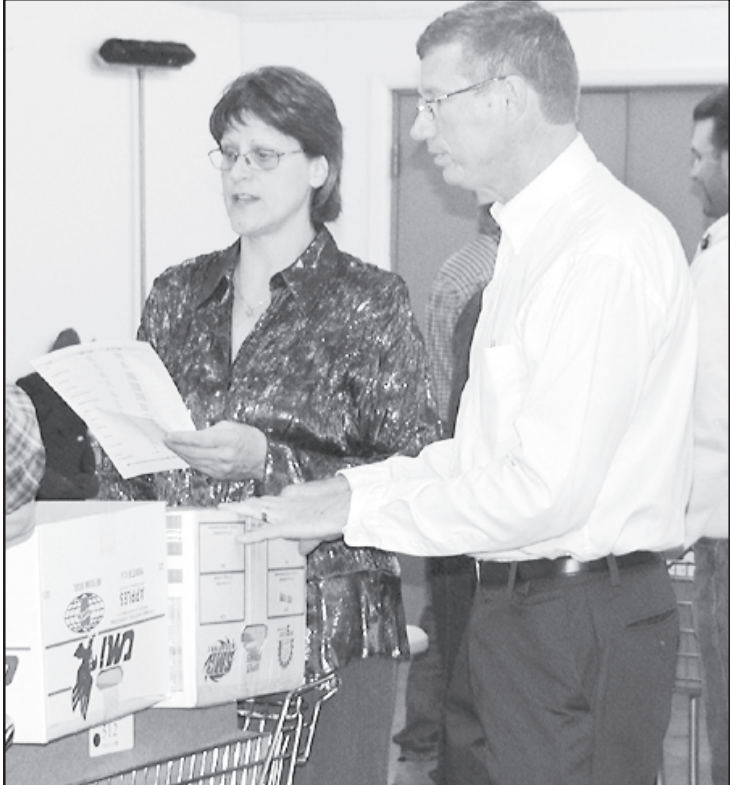
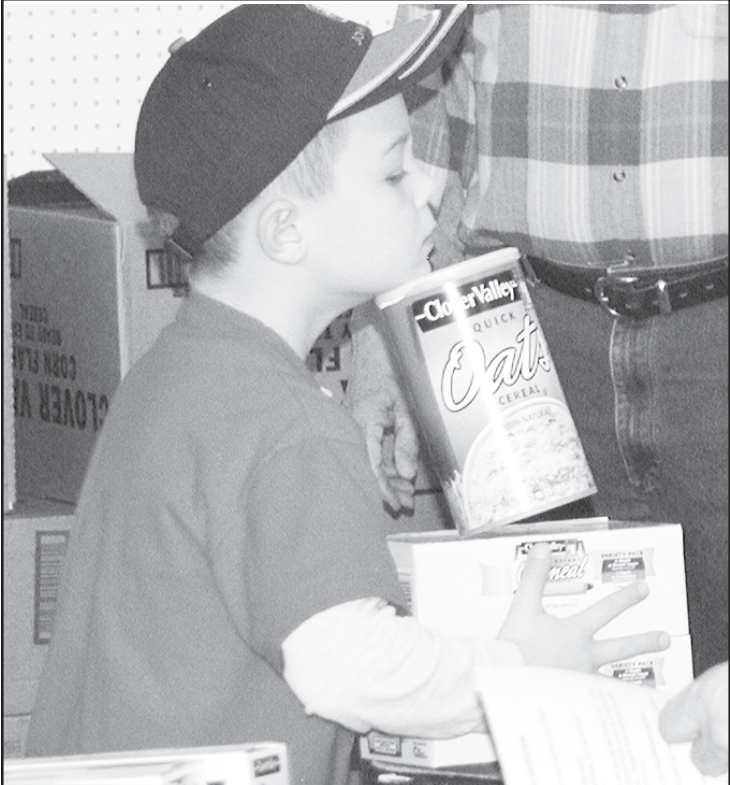
Pratt, Kansas has about 130,000 acres of land infested with prairie dogs. Schippers said Wichita attorney



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

**ABOVE:** Carson Van Eaton of Colby was one of many volunteers getting the Christmas baskets ready for those less fortunate Friday at the 4-H Building. **BELOW LEFT:** Brandon Johnson

of Colby used both hands and a chin to get items into one of the baskets. **BELOW RIGHT:** Linda and Randy Smith were reviewing their list of items to place in the baskets.



# Record number of baskets assembled

By Patty Decker  
*Free Press Editor*

A record number of Thomas County families received help this holiday season thanks to the efforts of many volunteers, organizations and clubs. Hard economic times and maybe a more efficient system of locating those in need were contributing factors to this year's 190 Christmas basket recipients,

said Wynn Duffey, president of the Genesis-Thomas County board of directors. For the last 12 years, Genesis, has coordinated the Christmas Basket Project with assistance from the Colby Fire Department donating bicycles, and the Kiwanis Club contributing new age-appropriate toys in Christmas wrapping. In prior years, the Colby Chamber of Commerce and other groups were involved in the basket pro-

gram. In previous years, the locations included Jaycee Center, Colby United Methodist Church, the gymnasium at Sacred Heart School, and the 4-H Building. The baskets, which are actually large boxes filled to the brim with food included hams, potatoes, bread, hamburger, fresh fruit, peanut butter, jelly, canned green beans, corn, peas, tomatoes, tomato sauce, pork and beans, kidney beans and an assortment of soups. De-

Randall K. Rathbun of Depew, Gillen, Rathbun and McInter is representing landowners Larry Haverfield, Robert G. Barnhardt and Gene Bertrand. Rathbun stated in a letter dated Nov. 29 his clients would "avail themselves of any and all legal remedies they possess against the county and any individuals" who come on their property in an effort to eradicate prairie dogs. After the hawk was found dead in late November, it was sent to Special Agent Kenny Kessler of the United States Wildlife Service in Topeka. "I've submitted the bird to our lab, but I don't know when I'll get the results back," Kessler said. The lab is Clark Bavin National Fish and Wildlife Forensic Lab in Ashland, Ore. Kessler said the red tailed hawk, which stands between 19-

and 25-inches tall, is protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. He said even if the bird's death was "unintentional" the case could wind up in court. "We don't know what caused the death of the hawk. It would have been a heart attack or it could have starved to death," Kessler said. "If the hawk was unlawfully killed we will continue an investigation to determine who caused the unlawful death. "If found unlawful and we have enough evidence to proceed with prosecution we'll notify a United States Attorney." Kessler said anyone found guilty of killing a migratory bird faces a fine of up to \$15,000 and or up to six months in prison.